

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 have been examined. Claims 1-3 and 5-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), and claims 4 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

I. Preliminary matters

Applicant has amended the specification to correct minor errors and for clarification. Such amendments do not constitute new matter.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 and 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,142,657 to Ezawa ("Ezawa").

A. Claim 1

Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference. For example, claim 1 recites an information reproduction apparatus having a designating device which designates a repetitive reproduction start position indicating a start position of repetitive reproduction. Claim 1 further recites a repetitive start instructing device to begin to perform the repetitive reproduction processing. A non-limiting embodiment of claim 1 is related to reproduction, and the performance of repetitive reproduction of image information from an exact position (i.e., claimed start position) without losing continuity of a dynamic image where a repeat instruction is issued at the time of reproduction (see, for example, the non-limiting embodiment of pg. 3, lines 6-12 of the present Application).

The Examiner maintains that Ezawa discloses the information reproduction apparatus of claim 1. However, Ezawa merely discloses that a voice rise memory plays the role of a buffer to determine whether the voice input has risen sufficiently or not (col. 10, lines 41-43). The recording of sound into the voice memory automatically starts in response to the rise of the voice input (col. 12, lines 43-45). In other words, Ezawa relates to recording, and the performance of recording so that recording of sound does not start from a middle of a memory (col. 12, lines 51-52).

Further, the Examiner maintains that Fig. 14 of Ezawa discloses the claimed designating device. However, Figs. 14(A)-(E) merely display intonations in an intermittent reproduction operation. Applicant submits that Fig. 14 fails to teach or suggest the claimed designating device that designates a *start position of repetitive reproduction*.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference, and respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

B. Claims 2 and 3

Since claims 2 and 3 are dependent upon claim 1, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

C. Claim 5

Since claim 5 contains features that are analogous to the features recited in claim 1, Applicant submits that claim 5 is patentable for at least analogous reasons as set forth above.

D. Claims 6 and 7

Since claims 6 and 7 are dependent upon claim 5, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 4 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ezawa and U.S. Patent No. 5,377,051 to Lane et al. ("Lane"). However, since claims 4 and 8 are dependent upon one of claims 1 and 5, and Lane fails to cure the deficient teachings of Ezawa, in regard to claims 1 and 5, Applicant submits that claims 4 and 8 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

IV. Newly Added Claims

Applicant has added claims 9-18 to provide more varied protection of the present invention. Applicant submits that claims 9-16 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency. Applicant submits that support for claims 9-16 can be found in the non-limiting embodiments in Fig. 2A; pg. 14, lines 19-23; pg. 18, line 2 to pg. 20, line 3; and pg. 29, lines 3-5. Further, Applicant submits that claims 17 and 18 are patentable for at least analogous reasons as claims 1 and 5.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/764,083

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

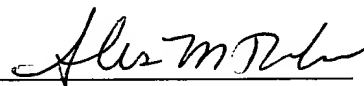
Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER


Allison M. Tulino
Registration No. 48,294

Date: January 24, 2005 (since January 22, 2005 fell on a Saturday)